

A NOTE ON THE SYNONYMY OF THE
GENUS *ZSCHOKKEELLA*, RANSOM, 1909,
AND OF THE SPECIES *Z. GUINEENSIS*,
(GRAHAM, 1908)

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(Received for publication 29 November, 1921)

In Simpson's *Report on Plague in the Gold Coast in 1908*, Graham briefly described a parasite from *Cricetomys gambianum*, to which he gave the name *Davainea (guineensis, n.sp. ?)*.

We have obtained from the Gold Coast on several occasions, through the kindness of Dr. J. W. S. Macfie, large collections of worms, both from *C. gambianum* and *Epimys (Mus) rattus*. The examination of this material has led us to make the following observations:—

Beddard (1911, *a*), apparently unaware of Graham's paper, redescribed the same worm under the name *Thysanosoma gambianum*. Beddard (1911, *b*) changed this name to *Thysanotaenia gambiana*, and again (1912) to *Zschokkeella gambianum*. Baylis (1915) described *Z. muricola, n.sp.*, from *Epimys (Mus) rattus*, and Meggitt (1921) described a new species of *Inermicapsifer (I. zanzibarensis)*, from *C. gambianum*.

We have been unable to find any constant or adequate points of difference between our material and the above three species; this is clearly indicated in the table below.

For these reasons we have come to the conclusion that the worm *Z. guineensis* has the following synonymy, viz.: *Davainea (guineensis, n. sp. ?)* Graham, 1908; *Thysanosoma gambianum*, Beddard, 1911; *Thysanotaenia gambiana*, Beddard, 1911; *Zschokkeella gambianum*, Beddard, 1912; *Zschokkeella muricola*, Baylis, 1915; and *Inermicapsifer zanzibarensis*, Meggitt, 1921.

We agree with Meggitt (1921) that the genus *Thysanotaenia* should lapse, and that no valid distinction has yet been made between the genera *Zschokkeella* and *Inermicapsifer*. We therefore suggest that the genus *Inermicapsifer*, Janicki, 1910, be likewise suppressed, and all the species in it included in the genus *Zschokkeella*, Ransom, 1909, on account of its priority.

	<i>Z. gambianum</i> , Beddard	<i>Z. muricola</i> , Baylis	<i>I. zanzibarensis</i> , Meggitt	<i>Z. guineensis</i> *
Genital Pore	About the middle. <i>Note</i> —Shown anterior in figure.	Anterior.	In anterior quarter.	Varies from the anterior to about the middle, in the same strobila.
Testes	In two separate groups. (This is only implied in the description and is not definitely stated).	In two groups, but almost continuous.	Continuous; but fewer in centre of segments.	May be in two separate groups or these may be united by a bridge of varying numbers of testes, in the same strobila.
Vesicula seminalis ...	? Present. If so, represented by a pouch near the ovary.	Not seen.	Small and inside cirrus pouch.	Small and inside cirrus pouch. No external vesicula seminalis seen.
Ovary	May be regarded as paired; partly separated by yolk gland.	Single, fairly compact, lobulated, crescentic.	Single, made up of straggling lobes, long, slender and only slightly connected.	A pear-shaped organ consisting of club-shaped acini, with vitelline glands lying closely posterior.
Receptaculum seminis	Long and not much swollen.	Small rounded organ near ovary.	Large and thin walled. <i>Note</i> —This structure appears to be what is usually considered as the vagina.	As in <i>Z. muricola</i>
No. of eggs in capsules	A few.	About 20.	One, but 9 to 10 eggs in clusters.	From 3 to about 20. <i>Note</i> —Apparently the egg capsules first contain about 20 eggs, and in later development these subdivide into capsules containing fewer eggs.

* Diagnosis compiled from observations on our material and from specimens which Dr. Meggitt was kind enough to send us.

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